

America said they were virgins in 1960. By 1990, just 30 years later, 75 percent of American high school students are sexually active by 18.

In the next 5 years, we spent \$4 billion to educate them on how to be immoral through trumpeting the solution of safe sex, and it worked. One in five teenagers in America today lose their virginity before their 13th birthday, and 19 percent of America's teenagers say they have had more than four sexual partners before graduation.

The result? Every day, 2,700 students get pregnant, 1,100 get abortions, and 1,200 give birth. Every day, another 900 contract a sexually-transmitted disease, many incurable. AIDS infection among high school students climbed 700 percent between 1990 and 1995. We have 3.3 million problem drinkers on our high school campuses, over half a million alcoholics, and every given weekend in America, 30 percent of the student population spends some time drunk.

Three thousand children today will watch their parents get divorced, and over 60 percent of the children born this day will spend part or all of their childhood in a single-parent family. There are a quarter of a million reported cases of child abuse every single year, and one in three girls being sexually abused before they are 18, and one in 5 boys. That is America today.

Last year, a young woman in a high school in Oklahoma wrote this poem as a new school prayer. Let me read it for you:

"Now I sit me down in school
Where praying is against the rule!
For this great nation under God—
Finds mention of Him very odd.
If scripture now the class recites
It violates the Bill of Rights.
And any time my head I bow—
Becomes a Federal matter now.
Our hair can be purple, orange, or green.
That's no offense, it's a freedom scene.
The law is specific, the law is precise!
Only prayer spoken out loud are a serious vice.

For praying in a public hall
Might offend someone with no faith at all.
In silence alone we must meditate,
God's name is prohibited by the State.
We are allowed to cuss and dress like freaks,
And pierce our noses, tongues and cheeks.
They've outlawed guns, but FIRST the Bible.
To quote the Good Book makes me liable.
We can elect a pregnant Senior Queen,
and the 'unwed daddy' our Senior King.
It's inappropriate to teach right from wrong,
We're taught that such "judgments" do not belong.

We can get our condoms and birth controls,
Study witchcraft, vampires, and totem poles.
But the Ten Commandments are not allowed—

No word of God must reach this crowd.
It is scary here I must confess,
When chaos reigns the school's a mess.
So Lord, this silent plea I make:
Should I be shot—my soul please take!"

Our Nation, which used to lead the world in every arena, now leads the world in these areas. We are number one in violent crime, we are number one in divorce, we are number one in teenage pregnancies, we are number

one in volunteer abortions, we are number one in illegal drug abuse, we are number one in the industrialized world for illiteracy. What happened?

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First of all, Christianity went to sleep. Forty years ago the church gave up the public arena to an increasingly secular government and said we would focus on the souls of men. Actually, the first leader to call for that division was not one of our founding fathers. His name was Adolph Hitler, who told the preachers of Germany, "You take care of their souls and I will take care of the rest of their lives." The Bible teaches that peace within a Nation comes as God's people stay active and pray for their leaders.

Scripture challenges us in 1 Timothy 2:1-2: "I urge then, first of all, that requests, prayer, intercession requests for everyone, for kings and all in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all goodness and holiness."

Here is the million dollar question: Are we better off today? Since we banished God from all our public life and systems and allowed a vocal group of humanist activists to tell us our faith is dangerous to the liberties of this Nation, are we better off? Are we satisfied with what is happening in America?

Alexis de Tocqueville was a famous French statesman and scholar. Beginning in 1831 he toured America for years to find the secret of her genius and strength which was marveled at throughout the world. He published a two-part work titled, "Democracy in America," which is still hailed as the most penetrating analysis of the relationship of character to democracy ever written.

Here is how de Tocqueville summed up his experience:

"In the United States the influence of religion is not confined to the manners, but shapes the intelligence of the people. Christianity therefore reigns without obstacle, by universal consequence. The consequence is, as I have before observed, that every principle in a moral world is fixed and in force.

"I sought for the key to the greatness and genius of America in her great harbors; her fertile fields and boundless forests; in her rich mines and vast world commerce; in her universal public school system and institutions of learning. I sought for it in her democratic Congress and in her matchless Constitution.

"But not until I went into the churches of America and heard her pulpits flame with righteousness did I understand the secret of her genius and power. America is great because America is good; and if America ever ceases to be good, America will cease to be great!"

That is why America was great. That is why America is now a mess.

Let me close by suggesting the answer offered us by President Abraham Lincoln in the address he gave calling

for April 30, 1860, seeking a national day of humiliation, fasting and prayer, and I read from Abraham Lincoln:

"We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of Heaven. We have been preserved these many years in peace and prosperity. We have grown in numbers, wealth and powers as no other Nation has ever grown.

"But we have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious Hand which preserved us in peace, and multiplied and enriched us; and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own.

"Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving Grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us! It behooves us then to humble ourselves before the offended Power, to confess our national sins and to pray for clemency and forgiveness."

This was Abraham Lincoln.

Now we have an entire population that has no clue of its true American heritage. They have not forgotten; they have never known or heard the truth of our founding as a Christian Nation.

O Lord, forgive us, heal us and lead us to stand for what our fathers fought to give us, to promote the power of the gospel in shaping this Nation and to have the courage of our convictions as Judeo-Christians. May we not shrink back. Abraham Lincoln said this to our Nation. We need to hear it again.

"It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us, that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion, that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain, that this Nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom."

I thank Dr. Fredericks for permitting me to plagiarize his address.

CONDITIONAL ADJOURNMENT TO FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2001

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns on the legislative day of today, it adjourn to meet at 10 a.m. on Friday, October 19, 2001, unless the House sooner receives a message from the Senate transmitting its adoption of House Concurrent Resolution 251, in which case the House shall stand adjourned pursuant to that concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMMONS). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Maryland?

There was no objection.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to: